

THE
M E M O I R S
OF

Mrs. CATHERINE JEMMAT,^s

DAUGHTER OF

The late Admiral Yeo, of *Plymouth*,

Written by HERSELF.

V O L. I.

The SECOND EDITION.



L O N D O N:

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MDCCLXV.

THE
S. M. O. I. N. S.

20

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

WINDSOR

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY

WINDSOR





T O
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
The D U K E of Y O R K.

S I R,

 O find a Royal English ED-
WARD, a naval commander
of Great-Britain, must e-
late the heart of every English sub-
ject; but much more the injured and
oppressed female, who has the ho-
nour to inscribe to your Royal High-
ness the ensuing pages.

WHERE can the daughter of an
English admiral, labouring under the
misconceived prejudice of friends, and
the still worse misrepresentations of
a design-

ii DEDICATION.

designing enemies, fly for patronage
but to illustrious EDWARD,

“ The pride and glory of our Bri-

“ tish youths;

“ Whose heart with gen’rous pity

“ glows;

“ Who feels the blessing he be-
stows:”

and who is, by an amiable concur-
rence of art with nature, rendered
the object of universal love and e-
steem.

To enumerate the virtues, graces,
and accomplishments, that gave rise
to this tide of popular affection, is not
the province of a pen so unskilled as
mine, in the soft phrase of elegant
description.

THE

DEDICATION. iii

THE heart-winning words, the praise-exciting actions, of the accomplish'd young Hero, are his best harbingers to the temple of Fame; where that he will be recorded amongst the the most renowned of his name and ancestry, is the sincere belief, and the most ardent wish, of

S I R,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS's

Most Oblig'd, and

Most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

Catherine Jemmat.

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THE

T H E
M E M O I R S, &c.

 T was long a matter of
dispute with me, whether
I should trouble the world
with a recital of my story or not;
I saw before me, the numerous
train of dangers and difficulties that
must accompany such an attempt;
yet it was impossible entirely to relin-
quish the desire to do it, without ta-
cily submitting my character and my
actions to the malevolent censure of

VOL. I.

B

those

those who, from innate want of humanity themselves, endeavoured to represent me as undeserving of its offices from others: who, as they are stiled relations, and therefore are supposed to be my friends, have a more extensive means to asperse my reputation, than the most open and avowed enemies could wish for or obtain.

ONE says, Sir, your sister is in distress; the reply is ready, 'tis, as Hamlet declares, "as easy as lying." Zounds, Madam,—'tis all her own fault, she might have been happy if she wou'd—preposterous, cruel, and unjust argument!

To

To arraign my words, thoughts, and actions, with the minutest truth, at the tribunal of publick justice, is one principal inducement to my resigning the needle for the pen; if from the series of indisputable facts here set forth, I am deemed a wilful and incorrigible offender, I can expect little lenity; but if it shall appear upon a candid summing up of the whole, that a thousand natural, as well as accidental incidents, gave birth to the long train of my misfortunes; perhaps I may find even strangers, more sensible of the "compunctious visitings of nature," in my favour, than I have yet been able to awaken in the bosoms of my kindred.

“ Oh I will tell thee all, from first
“ to last,

“ And pray observe me well.”

AT the time of my birth, my father, the late Admiral John Yeo, was a Captain in his Majesty's navy, and resided at Exeter in Devonshire, where I was born. My parents, when I was yet an infant, removed to Plymouth, a principal sea-port, and very compatible with his maritime employment.

I CANNOT say whether it was for want of ambition to reap laurels, or want of an opportunity to distinguish himself, that my father passed many years in the service, without attaining glory from any particular
action;

affion; nor do I think it any honour to his memory, that he was at last raised to the rank of a half-pay Admiral; as those compliments are frequently paid by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to make room for junior officers, who, perhaps, may have been born under a more auspicious planet than their seniors.

THIS I can venture to alledge in favour of his memory; that whatever might be deficient in his character as a commander on the liquid element, he was a finish'd tar in his own house; a bashaw, whose single nod of disapprobation struck terror into the whole family.

BETWEEN the age of five and six years, I unhappily lost a tender mother ; my father was then at sea, and arrived the very night her funeral rites had been performed.

“ The duties by the lawn-rob’d
“ prelate paid,
“ And the last words, that dust
“ to dust conveyed.”

Before I part with the dear beloved remains of an affectionate and virtuous mother,

“ Oh let the tear of filial sorrow
“ flow,
“ ’Twill give some respite to the
“ present woe.”

THE night of my mother’s interment, and of my father’s arrival
from

from a long voyage, was the first time, to my remembrance, I had ever seen him. My mother left in his care besides myself, a brother and sister who were yet younger.

My father, to apologize for his coming to England, without the knowledge or the permission of the Lords of the Admiralty, pleaded his extreme fondness and passionate regard to his wife; however, he was very severely reprimanded for it by their Lordships, and had not, as I have been informed, a ship to command for nine years after.

THAT a Gentleman who forsook his duty to his King, out of mere tenderness to a deserving wife, and

who saw by her death the instability of human expectations ; who was so enthusiastically fond of her, as to insist on having her corpse taken up from the grave to bid a last adieu to the inanimate lifeless clay ; at least, that this Gentleman, who was with much difficulty persuaded from so doing, should make a faithful guardian to the tender pledges of mutual love, can any person doubt ?

RICHARD the Third, when he has conquered the scruples of Lady Anne, and persuaded her to marry the butcher of her husband, in the person of himself, says,

“ Thus mourn’d the dame of E-
 “ phesus her lover,

And

" And thus the foldier fir'd with
 " martial glory,
 " Told his fond tale, and was a
 " thriving woer."

SHAKESPEARE has taken another occasion to depreciate our sex, where one of the courtiers expressing his admiration at this marriage, says, " What do I see ?" It is immediately answered, " Why you see
 " a woman."

Now should I tell you that this Gentleman married again in seven years after, a prudent motherly woman, to look after his house, and manage the education of his children; you'd say, perhaps, Well, he mourned long enough, and it was proper he should have a help-mate.

B 5

B U T

BUT when I represent him to you in nine weeks after, married to a giggling girl of nineteen ; should you apply to me the interrogation, What do I see ? I should naturally reply, Why you see a man.

THE loss of my mother, and the precipitate marriage of my father, were events that boded few halcyon days to the children already in being ; and to increase the improbability of our ever enjoying any, my new parent was soon pregnant, and became successively the mother of five children : Four of whom it has pleased providence to call to a better state ; and had the worthy captain my half-brother completed the number of the deceas'd, the world and myself might well have borne

borne the loss with christian patience and resignation.

To complete the dismal scene that was opening to us new characters in the great drama of life, my grandfather, a pious, plain, upright man, who boarded with us, was snatch'd away by death : Had heaven pleas'd to have lent us his life a little longer, he wou'd, at least, have seen us properly instructed in the principles of religion and morality ; he was a majestic venerable old man, full of years and wisdom, whose conduct was the best example for his children and servants to imitate.

My mother-in-law as to her person was a fine woman ; but simply good-natured ; and I really believe,

truly virtuous, though the contrary was hinted to my father, by some busy medler ; upon this, he sent post-haste to examine me, whether any gentlemen came to the house when he was absent ? I shudder'd at the question ; and answered, that there never had been any ; that I believed slander itself cou'd impeach her of no crime, except that being too reserv'd might be construed into one : As she was at this time at Bath, I felt a generous concern for her ; tho' she had not used all the means in her power to merit such a sympathy on my part ; but that might have resulted from the prevailing influence of a maid-servant, who was some time after, to my inward satisfaction, shamefully turned away.

My

My mother-in-law had two sisters; the one was married to Dr. H. an eminent physician at Plymouth; sufficiently known to the learned world, by his admirable writings; the other died unmarried, and left the bulk of her fortune to Mrs. H.

AFTER the death of my grandfather, my sister and myself were sent to a boarding-school; and my brother was placed at a Latin school, near Totness in Devonshire; it seems my father intended he should either study physick or the law, and indeed the sweetness of his temper, and gravity of his deportment, spoke him modelled by nature for one or the other of those branches of science.

BUT

BUT the bent of his genius was for the sea ; and as my father did not oppose him, to sea he did go, after having made himself a perfect master of classical erudition.

MY sister, in her puerile years, seem'd not very ready in acquiring the accomplishments necessary for a young lady ; but I am told she is since considerably improved, that she has a happy talent in tea-table oratory ; and that

“ Whene’er my faults or follies
 “ are in question,
 “ She draws her wit out, and be-
 “ gins dissection.”

Our blessed Redeemer, when a woman was taken in the very act of
 shame,

shame, and brought before him to pronounce sentence on her guilt; was so moved by the penitence and remorse he saw struggling within her, that he said, " Go thy way, and sin no more."

To appease the cruel murmur of the mob, who are always delighted with sacrifices of blood, who were displeased at this act of divine mercy, and who insisted to have her stoned to death, for their pastime; he reply'd, " Let him that is without sin cast the first stone."

UPON this the savages relented, and conscious of their own private iniquities, left the weeping Magdalene to a life of contrition.

I wou'D

I wou'd seriously recommend to all such as are licentious in reflections upon the conduct of others, to seal up their lips till they have thoroughly scrutiniz'd their own : If this advice has any efficacy, I am satisfied the above-mentioned lady will ever hereafter hold her peace.

As to myself, without being the least partial, I was endow'd with a quick genius, and a propensity to learn whatever was within the reach of my capacity ; I was indeed, as the poet has happily express'd it,

“ Wild as colt untamed,”

but quite inoffensively so.

I WAS

I WAS removed from the boarding school to learn plain work, under the care of three gentlewomen, the daughters of a deceas'd clergyman.

WITH regard to my person, I never could boast of it; for I was never a beauty. I was what you might call a comely black girl, with a blooming country complexion; I was remarkable indeed for an easy, obliging disposition, which perhaps was the only attraction of the many addresses I was afterwards honoured with.

WHEN I left this school, and returned to my father's, a master
was

was employed to teach my sister and myself the harpsichord ; but she, neither having a taste, or an ear for divine harmony, left off learning at the end of three months, without being in the least improved. Indeed, she

“ Had not musick in her soul,
“ Nor was she touch’d with the
“ concord of sweet sounds.”

The reader may apply the remaining part of this speech, which I think is in the Merchant of Venice, in what manner he pleases.

My further progress was, however, shortly after retarded, as my father was
ordered

ordered to Spithead ; and both my musick-master, and captain S. a veteran acquaintance of my father's, who took infinite pains to improve me in time and the thorough-bass, were, by the prudent advice of my mother-in-law, forbid the house, during my father's absence, lest her character should again be censured.

ABOUT this time an elegant and brilliant assembly was opened at Plymouth, and Miss C. the then agent-victualler's daughter, with myself, were admitted as subscribers, though yet dressed in robe-coats. As this gave some umbrage to the graver sort, it was specified, in the articles set up in each room, that

that no more young ladies, under such an age, should be subscribers for the future ; but as we were introduced by a majority of votes, we were permitted to continue.

THE antiquated virgins considered this as advantageous to them, who knew no country dances that had been in use since the deluge ; whereas we, who attended twice a week on the best dancing-master in that part of the world, who had all the new dances, as they came out in London, constantly sent down to him, were allowed to trip it extremely well ; and had generally the best partners ;

ners; a circumstance not very pleasing to our competitors.

I CAN'T help taking notice here of a melancholly accident that happened the first night of our assembly.

LADY P. mother to the present dutchess dowager of L. was seized with a fit of apoplexy while she sat at cards, and died early the next morning: There were present her ladyship's two daughters, and their husbands; namely, the marchioness and marquiss of C; Mrs. T. the other daughter, and Mr. T. her husband, then master of the King's household; who, though

though she lived at Plymton, but four miles from Plymouth, could never afterwards be persuaded to come into it; so deeply was she affected by this event.

VARIOUS constructions were put upon this accident, which might, and undoubtedly would have happened in any other place; and I very well remember to have heard a religious old lady declare, that all meetings of that kind were an abomination to good and virtuous people; and that she verily believed the death of the above lady was a judgement from heaven: but, continued she, very satyrically, what commenced in the death of her ladyship,

ladyship, will probably terminate in the birth of others; which must be the consequence of mixing youth of both sexes promiscuously together.

IN this pious conjecture she was, however, mistaken; for the utmost decency and good order were inviolably preserved, which continued without the smallest infringement as long as I frequented it.

As this assembly was the resort of the gay and sprightly, particularly the navy officers, it was no wonder that the daughter of a commander should attract their notice

tice and compliments; many of whom are now general officers, and daily reaping laurels by their courage and conduct.

AMONGST the many who paid their addresses to me by bows at church, nods and emphatical motions at the assembly, serenades under my window, and the many powerful yet natural enchantments with which Love instructs his votaries; I noticed none so much as those of a young surgeon, just set up for himself; not that I had the least tincture of passion for the man, but that I thought him a genteel person, and fit to lead the vanguard of my train of idolaters.

I had

I had frequently noticed him passing
and repassing under my window ;
where

“ Revolving in his love-sick soul,
“ The various state of things
“ below,
“ Now and then a sigh he stole,
“ And tears began to flow.”

Compassion and curiosity ; come,
I'll e'en add vanity, inclined me to
know what he had to say for him-
self ; and a favourable opportunity
for it soon after offered : I stood,
in the cool of a summer's evening,
at the street-door of my father's
house ; and left my mother-in-law
at cards in the parlour ; but per-

haps I should not have found this indulgence, had not my father been at the assembly.

Soon after my spark made his appearance, and began to chat on the beauties of the evening, and other common-place conversation, stupid enough of all conscience, though I thought it very pleasing: he certainly was a young man of good sense; but lovers are not always happy in the talent of expression, particularly on the first interview.

My sister (ever a most zealous Marplot) standing in the passage, and hearing me converse with a man, ran into the kitchen, and declared

declared to the servants (her favourite companions) that she had seen an apparition, and that the ghost of Jack S. was absolutely conversing with her sister at the door.

As I have mentioned this young gentleman, it may not be improper to observe, that he was the son of an alderman at Plymouth, who was deemed a man of great property : he had no children but this youth, and a younger son : his father having intended him for the study of physic, sent him to the university at Oxford ; where, having a warm contest with some of his fellow-students, a-

bout an atheistical book then on the table ; Mr. S. took up the book (as he thought) and threw it into the fire, where it was consumed to ashes ; but, when his passion subsided, he found it was his own Greek Testament, exactly of the same size and binding, that he had unwillingly destroyed ; this fact being represented to his tutor, by the other lads, as done in contempt of that sacred legislature ; his tutor severely reprimanded him for his want of circumspection in an affair of that moment : here it would probably have ended, but that the story was related to Doctor C. then head of the college, with a thousand aggravating circumstances ;

circumstances ; and, notwithstanding the most pathetic asseverations on his part, of his innocence, and the kindest remonstrances of his tutor in his favour, to which were added, the articles of his faith, drawn up by himself, and inclosed in a letter to the Doctor, he was cruelly expelled, and was obliged to return to his father's house, till he went over to Leyden to finish his studies.

DURING this interval, I had an opportunity of commencing an acquaintance with him. He was a pretty youth, but rather foppish, and too effeminate : these foibles, however, were far from depreci-

ating him in my eyes ; and I had the pleasure to be a peculiar favourite of his, infomuch that, by the assistance of a maid-servant, we had many private meetings ; and frequently walked together in a garden of my father's some distance from the house : but these excursions were always very early in the morning, and might have continued to our mutual delight, for some time longer, had we not been discovered by an antiquated aunt of mine, who, rising one morning unusually early, discovered us in earnest confabulation together : she immediately retired without seeming to have noticed what she had seen. The gentleman made
off

off as well as he could, and left me to stand the shock of a very severe lecture; for my father, having cognizance of this matter, swore he would turn me out of his house, if ever he heard any thing of this kind for the future. Before Mr. S. left England, he sent me the following lines:

TO MISS CATHERINE YEO.

WHAT passion dictates, and what
 love recites,
 See my hand tremble while my
 heart indites;
 Health to my dearest maid, these
 strains I send,
 Health, which my dearest maid,
 alone can lend;

C 4

Believe

Believe the honest verse, or let my
blood

Write the sad accents in a purple
flood ;

Believe the falling tear, the rising
sigh

That heaves my breast, and swells
upon my eye :

On the fair page see priny drops
appear,

Anxious to drown the tidings which
they bear.

Did fate propitious to my vows
incline,

And kindly fix my golden lot with
thine,

With how much rapture would the
moments roll,

Blest with the darling object of my
soul ;

But

But now accurs'd, by ill-starr'd fate's
decree,

I fly my country, my content, and
thee.

Farewel, my charmer, oh! these
lines review,

Then judge what pangs I feel to
bid adieu!

AFTER this expressive epistle he
went abroad; but not till he had
received in answer this little piece
annexed, which, as the first po-
etical attempt of a flighty girl, I
hope the critics will be favourable
to.

To Mr. S.

Go, virtuous S. and with you
ever go,
All you can taste of happiness be-
low :
By time at length grown wiser, I
reign
A bliss, for me too perfect and
divine ;
As bounteous clouds, that teem
with liquid show'rs,
Now here, now there, diffuse their
useful stores,
So you, from place to place should
ever range,
Rejoicing every climate with the
change ;

For,

For, wheresoe'er your devious foot-
steps stray,

The spot must glow with intellec-
tual day ;

Blest with the beams of knowledge
which you shed,

And rich with treasures of your vir-
tue bred.

But must I then, whose soul like
lightning flew,

To meet the kindred soul it found
in you,

(Forgive my pride) so soon, alas !
resign

The new-born joy, nor call it longer
mine ?

It must be so, stern fate will have its
way ;

My tyrant stars command, and I
obey.

BUT to return to the young surgeon, who so terribly alarm'd my sister, and the servants; he march'd off on the first outcry of an apparition; and gave me a fair scene to display the excellencies of my tragick abilities in; I had overhead what my sister bellow'd out in the kitchen; and being assured he was beyond the reach of a pursuit, I suddenly dropp'd down in the passage, just when the servants had assumed courage enough to take a peep at the supernatural visitant; seeing me in that position, confirmed their suggestions, for it has been the opinion of all the learned old women in the country, since the days of Popish superstition, that any person who
sees

fees a spirit, faints at the sight of a candle ; my mother-in-law, who did not want for credulity, applied restoratives to my mouth and nostrils, but to very little seeming effect ; I continued quite motionless, and in that posture, suffered the maids to undress me, and put me in bed.

My mother-in-law, in the mean time, dispatch'd two expressees, one to the physician, and the other to my father, then at the assembly, and who instantly obeyed the summons, but did not arrive as soon as the doctor, who was in my bed-chamber when he entered, and was followed by my mother, my sister, and all the servants ; who in reality
were

were afraid to stay below ; and as I roll'd my eyes about, I could plainly perceive they look'd as if the spirit had been behind them.

My father enquir'd the cause of all this, and they all attempted to explain it at once, which made a Babylonian confusion that was highly entertaining to me.

G--d d--mn you all, said my father, speak one at a time, or I'll run my cane down some of your throats. My mother then gave a circumstantial detail of all she knew of the matter, and declared she believed the poor child had seen some evil thing: Upon this I burst out laughing,

laughing, and continued it a full half hour till my spirits were quite exhausted, which made a fit of weeping the less difficult to affect. My father, who had intervals of good-nature, or at least could pretend to them before company, very seriously consulted the physician what was to be done.

THE doctor having very deliberately felt my pulse, advised some blood to be immediately taken from me ; upon this a surgeon was sent for, who bled me, and left me to take some rest.

THE next morning I was much better, but the doctor would prescribe some medecines which I was obliged

obliged to swallow, in order to save appearances ; tho' I was impatient to finish the farce, in order to get news of my spark ; but would give no account of what had occasioned my disorder.

FORTUNE, who is frequently the foe of enterprizing geniuses, had like to have overturn'd all the machinery of my brain : The young surgeon, not knowing the methods I had used to prevent a suspicion of him, and being impatient at not seeing me, or hearing from me in two or three days, during which it was absolutely necessary I should confine myself to my room, wrote a letter which was unluckily delivered'd

ver'd to a creature of my mother's; but she, like a prudent lady, sent it back unopened, or else she might thereby have unravell'd the whole mystery; this circumstance, she thought proper to acquaint my father of; who, when he thought I was able to come down stairs, sent for me, and address'd me in these terms: What fellow is this you correspond with? I assur'd him I could not comprehend his meaning; Pray, said he to his wife, Did not you tell me she receiv'd letters? No, my dear, but I told you a letter came, from whom I know not; and I thought it incumbent on me both to inform you of the matter, and to send the letter back unopen'd.

pen'd. However, I was well pleas'd to find things were no worse. And after attending a lecture not replete with the most elegant terms, from my vociferous pappas, blended with threats of the severest punishment if I ever encouraged any manner of courtship; I was dismiss'd with a heart as light as a feather, to lay new schemes for the advancement of our future correspondence.

I HAD been some time tampering with our chambermaid, whom I for that purpose permitted to sleep with me, to give me her aid and assistance; she enumerated the hazards she shou'd run in embarking in such a cause; as being turn'd out of doors,

or sent to the house of correction, if she was discover'd; but withal told me, that if she once undertook it, she would go thro' with it.

I PLAINLY understood this significant If; which imply'd no more than the mock-doctor's asking for the symptoms, *i. e.* the money; but I was not at that time mistress of any, therefore was oblig'd for the present to suspend further importunities.

A DAY or two after, she came into my chamber, with joy dancing in her eyes, and after carefully locking the door behind her, cry'd, Here Miss, here's something will make you happy; she then pull'd from
her

her breast a letter, which I rapturously received, and after enjoining her to perpetual secrecy, began to examine; Lord, madam, said she, the dear gentleman gave me half a guinea, and I am sure that's more than any one in the house will do except yourself.

I THOUGHT the letter written with the elegance of an Addison, joined to the passionate softness of an Ovid or a Sappho; which left me no room to doubt, that it was dictated by a heart truly sincere.

I SAT up all night to answer it, and whatever defects might have been in my stile, I took care that no parts of it should exceed the limits

mits of modesty and moderation :
 Many letters from this æra continued to pass between us, and by the means of the maid, a place was appointed where we frequently met ; till at length he put the grand question to me, namely,——Will you marry me ? your father probably may not consent to it, but it may be done in another manner ; and I am willing to trust to his generosity for a fortune, when he knows how long and how tenderly I have loved you, and that the thing once done is irrevocable.——This was going an octave beyond my compass ; for tho' I lov'd adulation immensely, I had by no means settled my affections on him, nor had I any serious intentions of becoming

becoming his wife, tho' his merit might justly entitle him to one infinitely superior: I therefore thought proper to break off the correspondence, at least, till he could find some method to persuade my father into his opinion.

AFTER this, tho' we frequently met at publick places, we never noticed each other for a full year.

IN the mean time, many advantageous matches for me were propos'd both to my father and myself: but his parsimony on one side, and my prudence on the other, prevented any of them from succeeding.

AMONGST

AMONGST the rest, I was address'd by Mr. A. then a young midshipman, and now a worthy commander in the navy; whose fortune and rank are infinitely above my present sphere: This gentleman would likewise have married me, for better for worse, without the consent of my father; and tho' he was not then in a condition to have supported me; yet I shou'd since have been amply recompenc'd for any little difficulties I might at that time have encounter'd, by having the full possession of so brave and so worthy a man.

THE first time I had the honour to see this gentleman was at a ball
given

given by the late unhappy admiral, who fell a prey to popular fury.

THE admiral at that time, set up as a candidate to represent the town of Plymouth in parliament, and upon the occasion gave a most splendid entertainment; where we continued dancing the whole night, during which time Mr. A. was my partner.

By the sagacity of our chambermaid, who found her account in being my confidant, an assignation was made for my meeting this young gentleman, at the house where my mother's children were nursed; but being at length observed by an old lady going into this house on a Sunday,

day, instead of my going to church, and the same gentleman having been seen to enter some time before me ; she sent for me, and after much maternal advice to refrain from all correspondence with deceitful man, promised me she would not inform my father (whose severity she knew) of what had passed, if I would faithfully promise her, never to be guilty of the like for the future ; I did, and really saw him no more, as the ship he belonged to soon failed.

PLYMOUTH harbour was at that time, though the nation was in profound peace, stocked with a number of men of war ; most of the commanders had their families on board,

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D

who,

who, I suppose, helped to make up the ship's company ; for my father at least I can vouch, whose children and servants were all sailors ; and it was then said of a very gallant admiral, that his daughter's pad was rated on the ship's books as an able seaman.

THE resort of ships added to the number and magnificence of our assembly ; it was held but once a week, and the admiral's daughter was chosen queen there, whom at the expiration of her time I succeeded : The election was by ballot once in every three months, and this dignity was not to be conferred

ferred on any lady who was not the daughter of a commander.

THIS compliment was paid to me, much against the inclination of my father, who had frequently declared that none of his family should ever preside there ; but as I was appointed a successor by the admiral's daughter, and received by a majority of votes, he could not decently oppose it.

THO' I flattered myself with the hopes of unbounded liberty in consequence of my preferment, which excited some sparks of envy in the fair ; I found myself deceived in this supposition,

D 2

“ And

“ And ne’er could gain permission
“ to attend,
“ Except through some entreaties
“ of a friend.”

A YOUNG gentleman having paid his addresses to me about this time, who it was known was soon going abroad ; my father was made acquainted with it, and he very judiciously lock’d me up for two months ; during which space, I never saw a creature but the person who brought me victuals ; I was neither suffered to have pen, ink, or paper.

As my trusty confidant the chambermaid had now left the family, and I could place no dependence on
my

my sister, I was for some time at a loss what instrument I should make use of on this occasion. But a simpleton of a girl, who was frequently the bearer of my provender, seemed to me the most eligible for my purpose ; particularly as I had learned from her fellow-servants, that money was her deity ; I therefore attacked her on the weak side, and told her, if she would deliver a message for me, I would give her half a crown ; and this I was then enabled to do, as I had an annual allowance from my father for cloaths.

SHE performed her part with great integrity, and at the hour I

D 3.

had

had fixed the next evening, the gentleman arrived under my window, and gave the appointed signal. I stole the sash softly up, and tying mine and the maid's garters to one of my pockets, let it down, and soon drew it up again with a letter and all appurtenances for writing.

As it was then currently reported about Plymouth, that my father was going to make me marry a rich old fellow who had grandchildren older than myself, and whose youngest son was at that very time among the number of my suitors; my spark before he departed affix'd on our street-door the following lines as an admonition to me, which were
found

found there the next morning by my
father and his intended son-in-law,
as they were going out a hunting.

Let wealth ne'er tempt you to
abandon sense,
Nor knaves seduce you with a
dull pretence.

Revere yourself, and conscious of
your charms,

No dæmon take to those angelic
arms ;

Success at length shall on your
vows attend,

Where love's the motive, con-
stancy the end.

By the means of the mystical
pocket, our correspondence was con-

D 4. tinued

tinued till the ship sailed to which he belonged; yet I frequently heard from him afterwards when he lay at Portsmouth, and there addressed to him the following lines, occasioned by his precipitate departure.

Ere to thy cause or thee my
heart inclin'd,
Or love to B—— had attach'd
my mind;
In female joys I plac'd my sole
delight,
The morn was pleasing, peaceful
was the night.
But now no interval of bliss I see,
My hopes, my pleasures all are
fled with thee.

No

No gen'rous effort my complaints
to hear,

No sigh to mitigate the streaming
tear.

Oh wherefore shou'dst thou trust
the awful deep,

Distract my soul, and give me cause
to weep.

To hardy seamen leave that doubt-
ful state,

Nor trust the winds with my im-
pending fate.

Methinks I see, for lovers always
fear

To lose the object which they hold
most dear ;

Methinks I see the vessel mount
on high,

D 5

Her

Her trembling topmasts blending
with the sky :
Now down she sinks immerg'd in
the profound,
And wat'ry mountains form the
prospect round :
A sudden pannick fills the sailor's
mind,
Who succour seeks, but seeks in
vain to find.
Reels too and fro, o'erwhelmed
with his fear,
And like a drunkard staggers here
and there :
One rope half pull'd, to t'other
rope he goes,
Nor which to take, nor which to
leave he knows.

All

(59)

All help seems vain, vain all the
help of man,

The last effort, 'tis only B— can.

'Tis then I see thee bold amidst
the storm,

With godlike presence and ma-
jestic form ;

A martial comeliness adorns thy
face,

Peculiar mark of thy accomplish'd
race :

Humbly, yet warmly, thou im-
plor'st thy God,

He hears—the waves are silenc'd
at his nod.

As soon as he left Plymouth, I
was freed from my sequestration,

D 6

and :

and had once more permission to go abroad.

I s h o u ' d have acquainted the reader, that before the young surgeon, formerly mentioned, was dismissed from his attendance on me, he took from my finger a diamond ring of small value, which he declar'd should never be return'd till I was his wife; as this was an event that I knew would never come round, I thought proper to write to him with all the indifference of a common acquaintance, desiring he wou'd restore the ring, and some letters he had formerly received from me; he took this opportunity to write to me a most pathetic answer; said he was resigned.

signed to his fare, since it was my pleasure ; that he would make no more tenders of a heart, which however sincere in its attachments to me, and however resolutely determined to persevere in them to the last, should sooner forego all its functions, than give me a moment's pain ; he therefore entreated one last meeting, at which, said he, I shall settle all worldly avocations. I remember he concluded with these lines of Lee's.

“ I've that within which baffles
 “ human art,
 “ A burning fever, and a broken
 “ heart.”

You'll

You'll think, perhaps, I was a little obdurate, when I tell you, that I was not much affected by this declaration; nor should I have consented to give him a meeting, but on the account before recited; my heart was a stranger to every sensation of love, except that which represented to my fancy the endearing image of the absent B. with whom I had broken a piece of gold, as a contract of perpetual constancy, which I then held as sacred as I do now matrimony. Add to all this, that the very same day the surgeon address'd me, as I mention'd, I had a long letter from Mr. B.

I AGREED

I AGREED, however, to meet him at the house of an old servant, and found my despairing swain waiting for me ; he delivered me the ring with a wildness in his looks that a good deal alarm'd me : Here, madam, said he, is your bauble ; that is your property ; the letters are mine, while I continue to drag this hated existence ; I thought you lov'd me ; you gave me room to think so ; but as you have been guilty of deceiving me, you shall not go unpunish'd : Upon this he made to the room door and seem'd to fasten it, and pull'd something from his side pocket, which I took for a pistol : What, says I, Is this your love to murder me ? Terror
over-

overcame me, I shriek'd out and dropt from my chair in a fainting fit ; when the people below stairs heard me cry out, they came up, and found that he had ty'd up one of my arms, and was going to bleed me, which they prevented, and declar'd he should never enter their house again. When I recovered a little, I found him at my feet with one of my hands clasped between his, his head reclining on it, and the tears streaming fast from his eyes : My dear Kitty, said he, hear with compassion what I am going to offer, assure yourself it will be the last trouble I will ever give you, can you think I meant to injure the divinest part of the creation ? or

“ Scar-

“ Scar that skin of your’s more
“ white than snow,
“ And smooth as monumental
“ alabaster.”

I TOLD him I supposed he carried pistols about him for that purpose ; he turn’d out his pockets, and demonstrated, that what I took for a pistol, was only his case of instruments.

IN a few days, said he, I shall be no more ; the letters shall be the companions of my solitude, till I am released from a world that has now no charms for me ; may you live to be happy in a more deserving lover ; but this I am confident of,
that

that a purer, a more celestial flame-beauty never kindled in a human breast.—After saying this, without waiting a reply, he abruptly left the apartment. On my return home, I found pity a more powerful advocate for him than all his persuasions had been ; there was something so peculiarly expressive of love and despair in the last scene, that it almost conquered fidelity itself : I slept none that night, and if ever I clos'd my eyes, I saw him weltering in blood before me ; never did I so impatiently long for returning day as upon this occasion ; I rose at the first dawn of it, and dispatched my confidant to enquire after his health, who brought me word that he kept his

his bed, was in a high fever, and attended by three physicians: Oh, I would have given the wealth of worlds to have seen him or preserved him; every instance of his tenderness and politeness then crowded into my memory.—I forgot all disgust, forgot even the dear absent youth, and all my soul was agitated between hopes and fears for the invalid.

BUT alas! it was all in vain; for, after having an interval of reason, he called to his bed-side a faithful friend, and, giving him a small key, told him it belonged to a little India box then under his pillow: As soon, said he, as the breath leaves me, bear it to
my

(' 68')

my dearest Kitty, and tell her, that with my dying breath I blessed her. From this period his disorder encreased ; and, though all human methods were used for his recovery, he expired the next morning in the arms of his friend, who, the day after his funeral, sent me a letter, containing the heart-afflicting news of his death, and entreating I would appoint a place to see him, that he might deliver up something he had in trust for me.

Soon after I received the box from him, containing all my letters, which I immediately committed to the flames.

AFTER

AFTER indulging the deepest melancholy for a considerable space, I determined to receive no more addresses of courtship, from any person whatsoever, but patiently wait till the return of Mr. B. (whose letter I mentioned I had received) who was then at Jamaica. Indeed he took every opportunity to write to me, and to send little collections of every thing he thought curious in that island, which were always enclosed to a particular friend of his at Plymouth, who found means, through the maid-servant, to convey them to me.

Mr. B. who was all impatience to return to England, by exchanging

changing places with a brother lieutenant of a man of war that was under sailing orders for that purpose, obtained his wishes ; and was sometime in Plymouth before it reached the ears of my father.

THE first information I had of the joyful tidings, was at the assembly, where I happened to be the same night he came on shore ; and was singled out by the very gentleman who was the agent of our literary correspondence : He acquainted me, that he was just come from Mr. B. who had earnestly requested him to look for me at the assembly, and to entreat

treat me to come to him if possible, as he was but a small way from the place; because, said he, should he appear in public, your father might renew his rigorous treatment of you, and Mr. B. had rather confine himself to his cabin during his continuance here, than occasion a disaster so opposite to his wishes.

SUCH a mixture of joy and confusion, as these words excited in me, sure no poor girl ever experienced; I was then engaged as partner in the dance to a gentleman of strict honour and veracity, and concluded, that to make him a friend, would
 be

be the most probable means of bringing matters to a crisis.

I THEREFORE took him apart, and candidly told him the whole matter; adding, that if he would be so obliging to excuse me, I would depute a much handsomer lady in my place; he answer'd, there is no time, madam, to be lost in compliments, it is my pleasure to promote the felicity of young lovers; there still remained an almost unsurmountable difficulty, as my father was at cards, but in the next room: How to apologize to him for my departure very much perplexed my imagination; pho, pho, says my partner, feign yourself sick; I took
the

the hint, and was suddenly seized with the head-ach, and so great a swimming in my head, that it was impossible for me to lead down the dance; my father being officiously told of this by my partner, ordered me home directly, but with one mortifying circumstance, that he sent his servant to wait on me.

THIS would entirely have frustrated our most hopeful enterprize, had not a fresh stratagem occurred to me; my father ordered the footman who waited on us with the light (for my partner and Mr. B.'s friend accompanied me) to return as soon as he had seen me safe, and attend on the rest of the family.

I WAS therefore undoubtedly much recovered by the fresh air, and told the young gentlemen in French, that if they would stop a quarter of an hour on the parade, I would go home with the man, and return to them as soon as he set out for the assembly: I did so, and the two gentlemen conveyed me to my spark, who had given over all hopes of seeing me that night.

As time would not permit a long conference, I told him that there was an open field behind my father's garden, and at the bottom of the garden was a large summer-house with lath'd windows; that if he would come under the window, at
three

three o'clock the next morning, I knew the maid-servant would be at that time ironing there, and that if I found it possible to win her over to my purpose, I would be punctual as to time and place; he bid me leave the maid to him, he knew how to secure her good offices.

WHEN these preliminaries were settled, I returned to the assembly; said my disorder was quite dissipated by walking, and I preferred coming there to moping at home by myself, or going to bed; which answered all my purposes exactly, and I went home with the family as usual. Lest I should miss the stipulated hour, I never went to bed,

but throwing on a loose night-gown, sat reading a romance till past two; at that time I awakened the maid, and pretended to be very assiduous about my father's linen; I said it had not of late been properly got up, and therefore, they must be ironed under my own inspection; for as yet I thought it not safe to give her any hint of my real motive, lest she should take it in her head to alarm the family before I could have another fight of him; for that on the preceding night was so short and inconclusive, that it appeared rather like a pleasant dream than reality.

WHILE I left her bustling about the linen, I posted to the rendezvous

vous (namely the summer house) and had no sooner open'd the window, but I perceived Mr. B. and his friend at some distance; they were shortly in the room with me; and to my great surprize, had each of them a case of loaded pistols; they accounted for it by telling me the danger of being out at such a lonely hour, and that too in the month of February; that they brought arms only to guard them from being robbed or ill-treated. Soon after the maid entered, whose surprize at seeing the two cavaliers, was suddenly hushed to silence and respect, by Mr. B.'s slipping a guinea into her hand.

" The perquisite soften'd her in,
 " to consent,
 " That maxim with all is pre-
 " vailing."

From which moment she commenced
 the most zealous promoter of our
 interest; tho' it was not without much
 difficulty she was prevailed on to ac-
 cept of the quietus, for she declared
 gold could not bias her one way or
 the other; but that in this she was
 actuated by unfeigned esteem to ren-
 der me every service within the com-
 pass of her poor abilities; and she
 honourably adhered to her professions
 during her life, which continued but
 a short space.

As there is something really uncommon and almost incredible in her story, it will possibly entertain my readers, who may take my word that I have not aggravated a single point.

I FOR a long time, admired with what an intense assiduity, she not only seconded every effort of our's for meeting ; but likewise struck out new systems of her own, to forward our business : She was always present when we were together, as well for decency's sake, as to keep a look out, and prevent a surprize.

If Mr. B. ever missed a day in his attendance, she never failed to

press me to write to him, and would even dress herself in some of my brother's cloaths that lay in my room, to be herself the messenger: She has frequently after the fatigues of the day, sat up till midnight, to accompany me, while I have been writing to him, and always secured me a punctual answer, where an interview was the next day appointed. But Mr. B. could never prevail on her to accept of any gratuity for her pains after the first time.

PERHAPS I should never have discovered the true cause of her attachment to our fortunes, had she not sometime after been visited with sickness; the physician who was consulted,

sulted, declared, she was far gone in a consumption, and advised her as the only possible means of recovery, to go immediately into the country, which she reluctantly consented to.

MR. B. was at that time obliged to go to Spithead, where his ship was to be paid off; and I could not help observing, that the poor girl was upon this occasion almost distracted; for I know (said she) I shall never see him more.

THE night before her departure for the country, she begged I would sit up in my room till the family were gone to bed, and she would wait on me, having something par-

ticular to impart; I accordingly did;
 she entered the room with a most
 alarming dejection of countenance,
 and was some moments before she
 had the powers of speech:---I am
 now, Miss (said she) very certain
 I shall never see you more; and
 have only as my last request to en-
 treat that you will write to Mr. B.
 and tell him, with my duty and best
 wishes for his welfare, I am gone
 home to die; to resign that life that
 afforded no pleasure but while it
 was employed in your mutual ser-
 vices;---advise him from a poor silly
 broken hearted girl, not to send
 any letters to you till he hears from
 me;---tell him if I could wish for
 life, that wish would only be in-
 spired

spired by a hope to see you happily united in marriage;—tell him. I have a brother, whom I strenuously entreat he will take into his service.—

I INSTANTLY sat down to write her sentiments to him, in order that she herself might witness I had omitted no circumstance of her desire. I read over what I had written, which she attended to with an apparent tranquillity. When I had sealed it up, she rose from her chair in a transport of grief, embraced my neck, and poured her sorrows upon my bosom:—Oh Miss! (said she) can't you perceive there is still a something unrevealed;—still

a something that must out, tho' my heart-strings burst while I relate it. I told her to proceed, for I was all impatience.

FIRST then (said she) pray promise me your unlimited forgiveness; and next, assure me upon your honour, and as you hope for temporal and eternal felicity, that you'll never disclose what I now tell you till I am in the dust;—no, let my folly and vanity be buried with my body; nor let my ashes be insulted for a virtuous, tho' ambitious love.

KNOW then, dear Miss, that long before I ever saw you, I had commenced an affection that would other-

otherwise have been more unpardonable than what it may now appear. — Mr. B. frequently din'd and slept at the house of my former master in the dock-yard ; I there unfortunately saw and admired him ; his affability and genteel deportment to all degrees of people, excited a regard that time or absence could never obliterate. — It was upon hearing that he courted you, I made interest to be your father's servant ; for tho' my love was as hopeless as it was unaccountable, I imagined that the frequent sight of him would give ease to my heart, or enable me to conquer my fate by a noble resistance. Far otherwise it has proved,
for

for the perpetual conflict between my esteem for you, and my prepossession to him, hath at length overwhelmed my spirit, decreas'd my appetite, and brought me to the verge of eternity.

DURING the course of this affecting narrative, the tears streamed incessantly from my eyes; and dearly as I loved Mr. B. I would gladly have become an advocate in her favour, if I thought it would have sav'd her life.

HAD she not extorted a solemn promise from me, never to acquaint Mr. B. of what had passed till after her dissolution, I absolutely would have used all the rhetoric in my power

power to have persuaded him to have wrote a kind letter to her.

It was now past three o' clock in the morning, when she sat on my bed-side, and her poor dejected spirits seemed more calm than usual, having disburthened the weight that oppressed them; when suddenly she fell backwards in a fainting fit; I was most dreadfully alarmed, and more so, as I thought her dead; "and dead almost myself to think her so;" I applied my hand to her forehead, and found her quite cold, inanimate, and motionless; I dared not to call for assistance, nor could I give her any; till providence directed me to search her pockets, wherein

wherein I found a bottle of hartshorn drops, these I applied to her nostrils, and found to my unspeakable joy, the signs of returning life : I mixed some drops in a glass of water, and made her drink it, which perfectly recovered her, and enabled her to get to her bed, which was on the same floor with my chamber, where I attended and covered her up, conjuring her not to come again into my room, till she returned from the country, as there were many spies upon my actions, to whom no cause of suspicion should be given.

THE next morning her parents came for her, and carried her to their

their house about four miles in the country; but the poor girl was so weak, and so much emaciated, that she was a whole day upon the road, where it was thought she would have expired.

THE brother she recommended to Mr. B. was a seaman on board the ship he belonged to; who, upon receiving my letter, immediately complied with Molly's request; and she had the pleasure to hear it by a line from her brother the succeeding post: Her mother afterwards told me it greatly contributed to her satisfaction, and as the old woman expressed it, "made her die easy."

SHE

SHE lived but three weeks after she left us, and a day or two before her demise express'd so great a desire to see me, that her poor aged mother undertook to prevail on my father to let me visit her ; but all she could say had no effect on a heart callous to the impulses of pity, and when she found all her eloquence ineffectual, she kneel'd and wept at his feet, whilst he sat motionless,

“ Like Patience on a monument,
“ Smiling at Grief.”

And conceiving it was some contrivance to bring me abroad for an amorous purpose, persisted unshaken in her refusal, and dismiss'd the good old woman with a sorrowful heart.

My father, to prevent the possibility of my seeing poor Molly, put me under close restriction, till he heard of her death, upon which I was set at liberty ; and, as he was obliged to leave the town, I got a young lady to intercede with my mother-in-law for permission to go two miles into the country with her, and by that means obtained an opportunity of attending the funeral of this martyr to Cupid, which was performed with great decency and solemnity, myself and the young lady array'd in white, with two others, being supporters of the pall ; at which all the village virgins attended, strewing flowers as they passed.

I COULD

I COULD not upon this occasion,
 but make one essay to express my
 concern for her in numbers ; how
 far I have succeeded, I leave my
 readers to judge.

The village maids their garlands
 bring,

And April's treasures shed,
 The choicest sweets of new-born
 spring,

Lie pensive o'er her head.

Like them a virgin bloom she knew,

Like them as soon declin'd,
 For love impair'd her rosy hue,
 And grief depress'd her mind.

O born to more exalted fate,

Thy absence we bemoan ;
 Not all the splendor of the great,
 In half thy brightness shone.

Thy

Thy honest heart, thy friendly soul,
 Unbias'd and unbought,
 Let love be agent thro' the whole,
 And honour guide each thought.

'Twas great, 'twas noble to aspire,
 'Twas glorious e'en to fall,
 You lov'd the youth whom all admire,
 And fell belov'd of all.

WHEN my mind had a little relaxation from reflecting on the death of this invaluable creature, I began to ruminate on ways and means to continue my correspondence with Mr. B. at least by letter. While I was under this perplexity his ship arrived from Spithead, but he was then under sailing orders for the Streights, and the ship had only
 put

put into our port to join some others of the squadron on the same destination.

THROUGH the interposition of a servant who had lived with my father forty years, and to whom at his death he bequeath'd a handsome legacy, I, for the advancement of five shillings, soon obtained a sight of Mr. B. I related to him all the adventure of Molly, without adding to or diminishing from the plain matter of fact.

HE was amazed at the sublimity of her sentiments, and the integrity of her soul, and said, I ever look'd on her, as one of uncommon talents for her obscure condition of life;

life; but for all our sakes it was better she should be out of her misery; for had she made her complaint to me, I should have been at a loss how to act. He likewise acquainted me, that he had got her brother instructed in writing, arithmetic, navigation and geography. He afterwards made him his clerk, and in a few years, by his interest, he was appointed purser of a man of war, so that his advancement and success was more rapid in its progress, than his sister's most sanguine expectations could have pictured them.

He enjoyed his employment with unblemished reputation for many years;

years ; during which he continued like the stork to support his disabled and infirm parents, till he was, at length, taken off at Jamaica by a yellow fever, and left them the bulk of his fortunate acquirements.

My lover continued at Plymouth five or six weeks, waiting a fair wind ; he then sailed, and was out of England four years ; in that ill-fated interval I married, not for love indeed, but to avoid the persecutions of a too rigid father, whose behaviour was insupportable, and such as I had much rather the reader would guess at, from the sketches I shall interperse, than I should attempt further to illustrate.

I SHALL

I SHALL in the mean time give a just account of the rash step that gave rise to my succeeding miseries.

IN the first place, with regard to my immoveable attachment to Mr. B. I applied myself to a grave sensible old gentleman, of whose understanding my father entertained a great opinion. I acquainted him with my whole course of love, and of a contract made between Mr. B. and myself, by breaking a piece of gold, and each retaining one half: I desired he would take an opportunity to break the matter to my father, and see if he could be wrought on to give his consent, that I should

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F

marry

marry Mr. B. at his return from the Streights.

It seems my father's first objection to this match was my having been too young when I was first courted, but that was now removed, by our submission to wait his time; the articles I requested the old gentleman to obtain for me, were only these.

THAT till he thought proper to give his final consent, he would permit us to correspond by letters; that every letter I wrote, as well as those I received, should first be submitted to his perusal, and that when Mr. B came into the port, he should
be

be allowed to visit me in company with my parents.

THE next day I was not a little pleased to find that my father had brought the old gentleman to dinner with him; depend on it, I was impatient till the cloth was taken away, to withdraw with my mother and sister, that my advocate might have room to plead.

I WAS so anxious to know my destiny that I clapp'd my ear close to the parlour door, but could not distinguish more, than that my father raised his voice to a great pitch, and the other's was very mild and mellifluous.

LEST I should be caught at this work, I thought proper to suspend my curiosity, and to keep up my spirits with hope, till I had another interview with my friendly solicitor.

THE next afternoon I waited on him at his house; he opened the door himself, and by the joy in his countenance, and extreme politeness in his manner of receiving me, I promised myself a whole budget of comfortable news; but I was too precipitate in my conclusions; for he began acquainting me, that he had ineffectually used all his rhetoric with my father; that he had declared, he would give no
fortune

fortune with any of his children while he lived, but that those who survived him, should have according to their merits.

He further said, that tho' Mr. B. was the son of a gallant admiral, yet as he had now only his lieutenant's pay for subsistence, he supposed he would not be such a madman to take a girl without money; but he had a still more cogent reason to advance, viz. that the admiral and he had never been on good terms together, and he therefore had a deeply rooted antipathy to every creature that belonged to him. How good,---how charitable,---how christian---this declaration! O shame, where is thy blush!

E 3.

WHEN.

WHEN I found your father (continued my friend) so obdurate, tho' he had not the least idea that I was set on by you, I told him I thought it was quite proper that his resolutions on that head should be communicated to you, either by himself or some friend; he threw the task upon me; and if I might advise you in this case, it would be to write once more to Mr. B. tell him judiciously what you have to trust to, and if he persists in his constancy against all obstacles; if notwithstanding your father's mercenary declarations, he still solicits a marriage, I confess I would recommend it to you to have him; by this means, Miss, you will

—“ Play

—————“ Play the touchstone;
“ And try if he is current gold
indeed.”

If he is found otherwise, endeavour
to wean your inclinations from him;
and not to fix them on any object that
has not the approbation of your
father.

THIS theory from a sage was
good, but hard to be reduced to
practice by a romantic girl.

YET I followed his counsel, and
thro' the means of lieutenant W.
who had formerly been very useful in
transmitting my letters to Mr. B.
and who some few years after mar-
ried a sister of that gentleman's, I
F 4 found

found an opportunity of getting my epistle safely conveyed: That gentleman's merit afterwards entitled him to a flag, and the eclat he made in the unhappy affair of admiral B. must incline every person as well as myself to regret his not longer surviving to enjoy those honours, which the exertion of his abilities in defence of his country so justly made him the heir of.

BUT to proceed; in process of time I received from Mr. B. by this gentleman, a long letter, which I thought he delivered with an unusual degree of reserve; he requested I would look it over before we parted.—I did so; and found it to contain

contain all the tenderness of an affectionate husband, blended with all the flowers of refined elocution; yet notwithstanding there was a certain formality in the stile that plainly indicated a decrease of fondness on his part: this remark I could not avoid communicating to Mr. W. as soon as a few tears qualified me for utterance.

I TOLD him that all the elegance of the stile of the letter made with me no compensation for a certain distant respect; I observed in it the courtly harbinger of coolness and disgust.

He said all that good-nature and good-manners could inspire to dis-

frigate my apprehensions, and added, that in the same packet with my letter, there had been one for my old friend Mr. S. and desired me at least to suppress my fears, till I had advised with that gentleman upon them.

MR. W. attended me to my father's door, and there respectfully took his leave, but left me with a heart the most uneasy that imagination can conceive, or uncertainty inspire in a mind naturally tenacious of love concerns.

I took the letter to bed with me, read it over and over, expressed the phrases and epithets in all the variety of reading, but still found
some

some new cause of grief, till having fretted and desponded till I was quite drowsy, I fell into a slumber, and had so extraordinary a dream, that I cannot help reciting it.

I IMAGINED myself coming from church, and that I was accosted on the way by an old gentleman, who asked me if I chose to take a survey of the goods that were to be sold by auction : I was surprized at the question, as the gentleman to whose house he referred was thought to be in great circumstances ; without asking any more questions, I imagined he conducted me into a spacious dining-room ; here the first object he pointed out to me was a clock-

case, I opened the door and saw Mr. B. standing within dressed in blue and gold ; I gave him a pull to draw him out, and that instant his body seemed to shrink through the cloaths, which were still obvious to my sight.—I don't recollect that I was terrified at this event, but seeing none in the room but myself and my conductor, I asked him where were the people to attend the sale ; he told me, they were not yet come, and then led me into another apartment, where I discovered a coffin placed on two stools, and upon lifting up the lid perceived it to be Mr. B. But still I was not terrified.—I was contemplating the body with earnestness, when suddenly

denly a snake jump'd from it, twisted round my arm, and stung me ; upon this I shriek'd out and awoke, and as Richard says, though but a dream, it was so alarming, that

“ Cold drops of sweat hung on my

“ trembling joints,

“ My blood grew chilly, and I froze

“ with horror.”

I HAVE mentioned, that Mr. W. advised me to see a letter sent by Mr. B. to my old friend Mr. S. before I indulged any suspicions of my lover's inconstancy, for which purpose I waited on Mr. S. the succeeding afternoon, and was received with an ease and affability almost peculiar to himself. After

tea

tea was over, he requested me to take a turn or two in his garden, and there spoke to the following effect.

You have received a letter lately from M. B. yes Sir, said I, and having had the same night a most frightful dream about him, I was quite uneasy till I could certainly be informed by you whether he is living or dead ; I then told him my dream, at which he laughed very heartily ; no child, said he, Mr. B. is extremely well, and if you'll promise to behave with that fortitude of mind that becomes a lady of your understanding, you shall see one that I have receiv'd, and shall yourself confess with me, that he is a man of
super-

superlative honour, good sense and discretion.

HE then shewed me the epistle, wherein he had expostulated sensibly on the great inconveniences that would attend his marrying me without a fortune, when he had not at present one himself;—he hoped I would not impute his writing in that manner to the least disregard; but he had often weighed with himself the many misfortunes he might involve me in thro' the displeasure of my father; he assured me with the greatest energy, of the love and esteem he bore me, to convince me of which, if it would in the least contribute to my happiness or tranquil-

tranquillity of mind, he would never marry whilst he lived.

To have heard of his death at that instant, would not have shock'd me half so much as seeing he had made such a resolution ; though I must now confess, having seen a little more of the world, that I think he acted upon the highest principles of honour and prudence. This proved not only an utter disappointment to my inclinations, but a real concern to me for some time, and had I not been mistress of uncommon vivacity, I might have been as great a sufferer as poor Molly was before me.

BUT

BUT be that as it may ; I had some time after another courtier ; in the naval line to be sure ; the young gentleman I allude to, was then a midshipman, but had much greater pretensions in point of fortune, than any of the former ; he wanted immediately to marry me without a fortune, or even the consent of my father ; and offered to settle three thousand pounds on me ; which last particular he got represented to my father by a friend ; but he, according to his usual disposition, refused his acquiescence with this generous offer ; and in order to put an effectual stop to our intercourse, sent me four miles out of town, to the house.

House of one Mr. S. where I continued.

“ Till afar off the vessel sail'd away,
“ That all my hopes of happiness
“ contain'd.”

But previous to it, notwithstanding all my father's care and circumspection, we frequently saw each other, and continued to correspond till he embark'd, and afterwards died in his passage.

It should seem by what I have been writing, that these were the memoirs of a disappointed old maiden, who to extort an opinion that she was once agreeable, tells you the variety of conquests she has made,

“ But.

“ But now is stripp’d of all her
“ glories,
“ And condemn’d to tell old stories,
“ To her unbelieving friends.”

But why may not the true story of Catherine Yeo, who absolutely does exist, divest as much, allowing for the different abilities of the authors, as those of Miss Pamela, Andrews, or Miss Clarissa Harlowe, who never had any local habitation except in the happy fancy of their admirable author, whose characters of virtue and constancy are the native children of his truly benevolent soul? As I have taken the freedom to mention this worthy gentleman and his writings, I shall venture to trouble

trouble my readers with a little ode of mine produced by the perusal of the latter, tho' I never had the much desired felicity of conversing with the former.

Ode to the author of Pamela, Grandison and Harlowe.

While from thy pen's angelic source
 Sublimest morals flow,
To stop each mad licentious course
 And heav'n-born virtue shew:

Thro' each illumin'd well-wrought
 page,
While pow'rful nature glides,
And ev'ry scene on life's great stage,
 A pleas'd review abides:

Say,

Say, Richardson, what wond'rous art
Such sentiments inspire ?
Such bright celestial strokes impart,
Of sympathetic fire ?

Sure from the realms of holy light
Some cherubim descends,
Assisting dictates what you write,
And sacred influence lends.

It must be so, no Delphic shrine,
No Sybil yet of old,
Such great important truths as thine,
Prophetically told.

Of suff'ring virtue here we find,
Some elocusive tale ;
Fit to alarm a gen'rous mind,
And bid the tear prevail.

Life's

Life's gaudy pomp, the proud man's
boast,

Here too is finely drawn,
Prov'd but an anxious toil at most,
Where comforts rarely dawn.

Each hallow'd maxim you lay down,
To this just period bend,
Virtue perpetu'l honours crown,
And vice all ills attend.

My next admirer was the son of
an eminent tradesman, who surpass'd
in riches all his cotemporaries: but
as I was too giddy and romantic
to set the smallest value on a confi-
deration of that nature, I sat down
to take his person and abilities to
pieces in " my mind's eye ;" and
found

found each so utterly fall short of that standard of perfection which I had determin'd to make the touchstone of all my admirers, that I could not possibly think of making him my spouse elect.

HOWEVER, as I loved still to be doing something to keep me out of idleness ; I tolerated him to see me frequently at the house of my father's old man servant formerly mentioned ; but still treated him with an unaccountable rudeness and contempt ; for which I am now a real penitent ; for had I been but worldly enough to have suppressed my want of regard, and to have acted like the modern young ladies, I
might

might now have been driven in a coach and six, instead of driving myself a quill.

BUT could I have surmounted my natural scruples to him, there was still a religious one to overcome; namely, we were of different persuasions; a most potent argument where some excuse was decently necessary: I had been educated in the church of England, and he was brought up a rigid Presbyterian; but tho', when I mentioned these particulars, he declared (and I believe very sincerely) that he would never oppose my inclinations, either with regard to myself, or my children; yet it was a plausible pretext for
breaking

breaking off an intercourse that was quite irksome to me.

I should inform my readers that this last courtship was carried on while I was at the house of Mr. S. four miles from Plymouth, where I was also constantly visited by a gentleman, who, tho' old enough to be my grandfather, had so coltish a disposition as to court me, but unknown to the family; and took it into his head that I was to be won with the epithets of—*pretty Miss*—and *fine young lady*; he was perpetually presenting me with sugar-plumbs, sweet-meats, and such baubles, as might gain very well upon the heart of a child, but tho' I

deigned to receive them, the doating donor was the everlasting object of my disdain and contempt: The old ridiculous gait, " the increasfing " belly," the decreasfing leg, and all the marks of blasted antiquity, afforded a scene of comic mimickry, to all my young companions, the moment he withdrew.

BUT how dangerous it is to play with edge tools the event will shew; I really conceived I might as safely venture with this man, as with my sister, or grandmother; or indeed, as the virtuous maid did, who went to comfort king David, and lie at his back, when there was no other probability of preserving his life.

FOR

FOR this reason, I made no scruple of walking or riding out with him whenever he desired it; and he always behaved towards me with the greatest modesty, respect, and tenderness.

One day however he persuaded me to go out upon the Moor to a place called Mavey; he said it was a tenant's house, and we might there have a rural treat: I readily yielded to the proposition, nor could it enter into my heart to suppose that he had any unchaste designs.

WHEN we were shown into a room, he called for some shrub and

G 2

Malaga,

Malaga, which he blended in a punch-bowl; this he told me was the finest cordial in nature; but as I had an utter detestation to all strong liquors, it was not without difficulty, he prevailed on me to drink half a glass of this compound plentifully cooled with spring water. The old fox imagining that spirits were on his part wanting, to complete his diabolical scheme, drank two or three bumpers successively, and used all the language he was master of to entice me to follow his example; but maugre all his efforts, I peremptorily refused it, and desired to go home: My pretty Miss, said he, sure you can't be in a hurry, you are with
the

the only man that idolizes your beauty and your merit; my whole fortune, which is not inconsiderable, I'll throw at your feet; you shall vie in grandeur with any prince in Christendom, if you will but indulge the glowing transports of an amorous man—and should a child come—

HERE I interrupted him, with a *What does the monster mean?* He indeed, like the ass imitating the lap-dog, ran into the most ridiculous absurdities, which would scarcely have been sufferable in a youth of nineteen. I attempted to leave the room—he intercepted me, kneeled, wept and swore, but in short, had

so much the resemblance of an old frantic baboon, that I could not avoid a hearty fit of laughter.

As he lay sprawling on the floor, and creeping after me like an abject spaniel, he had the consummate assurance to lay hold of one of my legs. I immediately withdrew it, and with the other gave him so smart a kick on the nose, that the sanguine current flowed copiously from it, and I embraced that opportunity of delivering myself from his clutches, by slipping down stairs. Amongst a promiscuous company who were drinking in the kitchen, I discovered a farmer who had known me from my infancy, and who was
reckoned

reckoned the most facetious fellow in his way our country had produced — Mr. R. said I, I should be glad to speak with you ; he stepped apart with me, and I told him the whole affair. Miss, said he, I know the old villain extremely well ; don't you be dismayed, but come with me, and follow my directions, by which you shall obtain ample satisfaction for the outrage he has offered.—As I never wanted courage when I had a person to countenance me, I led the way to the scene of action with the utmost alertness.

WE found the old gentleman applying a wet towel to his nose to stop the effusion of blood : on see-

ing the farmer come in after me, he seemed at first a little confounded, but soon resuming presence of mind— Oh my good friend R. said he, how dost do; this little rake and myself have been taking an airing, and I have had an unlucky fall from my horse, that has a good deal discomposed me; but come, said he, drink a glass, and let us forget all afflictions; the farmer, who was a healthy robust man, just turned of forty, readily complied with his request, and pushed the glasses jovially about.

MORE liquor was called for, and the farmer, who was a true master of the ludicrous, made the old man the continual subject of his derision,

sion, without his being in the least capable to comprehend it,—till he at length fell quite stupified back on his chair;—the farmer then took and burned the end of a cork in the fire, and so terribly maul'd his features, that he looked like one of the sneering apparitions that serve to put children in the horrors: In this condition we left him, and went down stairs.

THE farmer, who had not yet completed his scheme of making the old gentleman completely ridiculous, after assuring me, he would himself see me safe home, begged I would not be uneasy, but wait till the frolic was over; to this I con-

sented for my own safety ; and when it was just duskish, while the farmer and myself were conversing at the street-door, three country fellows came up, to enquire if they could have lodging for that night ; the farmer looking very gravely, answered in the negative.—Upon this the fellows were for jogging forwards ; when they had gone about twenty paces, he called after them, and taking them into a private room, said, My honest fellows, I should be sorry to see you at a loss for a lodging at this time of night, but if any of you have courage enough to fight the devil, which I cannot doubt from the appearance you all make, you may be as well accommo-

accommodated here as at any house on the road; the rustics at first seemed to decline the encounter, but inspired by half a pint of spirits, which he called for and distributed in equal proportion to each man (as it was now quite dark) they determined to dispute the ground inch by inch with his infernal majesty.

" Thus far success attended on our
" arms."

THERE happened to be in the room where the old fellow sat flumbering, a dark lanthorn, into which the farmer put about an inch of a rush-candle, and placed it in such a position as to throw a glimmering reflection on him ;—he then

G 6 came

came down and told the clowns, that there were two beds in the room up one pair of stairs, and a candle waiting for them, but charged them if they saw any thing to make good use of their whips, and it would soon disappear.—They went up, and suddenly we heard the dreadful cry of murder, murder, thieves, thieves: The farmer, who had our horses by this time ready saddled at the door, ran to me in a seeming great consternation, and said, for heaven's sake, Miss, make the best of your way with me, as there are certain robbers in the house; I was soon mounted, and we rode off as fast as possible;—but the farmer laughed so immoderately that he could scarce sit

fit his horse ; I believe, said he, the old fox will be pickled ; I believe his courage will be well cool'd ; he'll make no more attempts on honest men's children for some time, I'll warrant you.

WE soon arrived safe at Mr. S.'s, whose family had been very uneasy at my long absence, concluding that some accident must have occasioned it ; I told them I had, indeed, met with a very singular one, and narrowly escaped ruin ; but left time to explain those innuendoes.

As they knew that I left the house in company with the aforementioned person, they desired to know

know what became of him, or why he had not seen me safe home ; to the first I answered, I cared not ; to the second, that I was safer without him.

THIS abrupt manner of delivery gave them cause to suspect something, but what they knew not, and enquiries were to no purpose.

THE next afternoon I learnt the sequel of the preceding night's comedy, from a young clergyman, who had an apartment in Mr. S.'s house.

I HAVE met, said he, the most whimsical adventure this morning, that I have known for some time.

I was

I was with justice T. and we were informed that three robbers had been apprehended at the Mavey, who were coming to be examined before his worship.

Soon after the criminals were introduced with their accusers, which was the man of the house, his wife, his servant, and our acquaintance, Mr. —.

THE old gentleman began by telling his worship, that being fatigued with hard riding, he had called at the house of his tenant, and after having refreshed himself moderately, he fell asleep in a room till it was dark, that he found himself suddenly attacked by these three men,

men, who buffeted, maul'd, and horsewhipped him, in a most unchristian and barbarous manner; affirming that he was the devil; and that tho' he frequently assured them he was Mr. —, they continued to beat him in such a manner, as would have killed him, had not the people of the house come to his rescue, and secured them for this examination. Every circumstance of this was authenticated by the other witnesses.

H E R E the justice interrogated the prisoners about their way of life, who knew them, and what they had to alledge in their defence; [they declared in substance, that they had

had come about thirty miles, being recommended from some gentleman there to one farmer R. the justice asked if they had any written characters or directions; they replied they had not, for that none of them could either read or write : Indeed my friends, says the justice, this is a most inconsistent account, and if you have no better testimony of your honesty, than what you now offer, I shall be obliged to commit you till a more satisfactory story can be made out.

SIR, said the old fellow, I know farmer R. well, I saw him yesterday, and am so well convinced that what the prisoners say in their defence

fence is a fallacy, that I will send for him this instant to confront them, by which all doubts of the matter of fact may be removed.

A MESSENGER was accordingly sent post to the farmer, who arrived very speedily, he being waiting for that purpose; when he entered the room the old gentleman asked him with some warmth, —— do you know these fellows? — I have seen them, said R. bluffly. —— Mr. R. (interrupted the justice) we have sent for you on a serious affair, into which it is thought you can give us some light. Then may it please your worship, I desire I may be sworn, to declare the truth, the whole truth,
and,

and nothing but the truth, so help me God.—This alarmed us all—he was sworn—.

YESTERDAY about two o'clock at noon, I came to drink a pint of beer at the public-house, and to chat a little with my neighbours, some time after a young lady, whose family I have a great respect for, came into the kitchen from above stairs, as if in fright and confusion; she called me into a room, and told me, that she had innocently ventured herself in company with that venerable sinner, who had the cruelty and assurance, first to endeavour to entice her to drink, and then to make a violent attack upon her chastity.

BUT

BUT finding himself disappointed in both these attempts, and having received from the lady a slight reprimand of a kick upon the nose. Here the old fox, who had been hitherto biting his lips in the greatest agitation, interrupted him, saying, —Sir, we don't come here to propagate scandals, but to clear up doubts. Sir, said R. that's what I'm endeavouring to do, if you'll have a little patience: I can't have patience, nor I won't have patience, said he, I've been used barbarously; it is a combination amongst you all, and I'll indite you in the Court of King's Bench,—Having made this speech, he hobbled out of the room as fast as he could, and we heard no more of

of him : The three poor fellows were discharged, on the farmer's averring that he had set them to work, and promising to be answerable for any damages that might arise.

THIS young parson was very communicative and entertaining, and as he was a batchelor, paid me many undeserved compliments, particularly that of addressing to me the following lines.

Down in a scene remote from public view,

From tender infancy a virgin grew,
To form her, nature lavish'd boundless care,

Sweet her deportment, elegant her air,
Soft

Soft were her words, her sentiments
 refin'd,
 Stranger to passions of a lawless kind:
 These were delights inferior to her
 taste,
 Whose mind was modell'd for a no-
 bler feast.
 Mark what from love unpractis'd
 souls endure,
 Love--the disease that Seymour* can-
 not cure.
 I saw, approv'd, and idoliz'd the
 maid,
 My glowing passion coldly she re-
 pay'd,
 Hesper the star of eve' with stream-
 ing light,
 Spangles the sable bosom of the night.
 Night

* Then a phyfician at Plymouth.

Night follows day, day follows night
in vain,
Nor day nor night can mitigate my
pain.

Where were ye nymphs, when sun-
bright Kitty's hate,
Pronounc'd my doom, and what she
spoke was fate?

Left me like sorrow's monumental
clay,

To weep whole nights, and languish
funs away.

What charms superior in my rival
move,

Knows he like me to love, or merit
love?

Knows he like me, soft numbers to
awake,

Bid Sappho's lute, or Sion's trumpet
speak?

Thus

Thus hapless Spencer sung his pleasing strain,
Might charm an angel — tho' he sung in vain.

I RECEIV'D about this time while I was at Mr. S.'s, a letter from my mother-in-law, enjoining me in pretty peremptory terms, to come come; that my father, who was then at Spit-head, had heard of all my doings; and that it was her duty, as my mother, to turn over a new leaf with me (as she expressed it) and have herself a proper eye over my future conduct.

I WAS obliged to comply with this arbitrary mandate, but was determined

termin'd to be a heart-sore to her, if she attempted to put a girl in leading-strings, who had infinitely more sense and spirit than herself.

HOME however I did go, and found that my good step-mother had provided one of the Fury's for my guardian; this was neither more nor less than a servant maid, who had formerly been turn'd disgracefully away, and whom she engag'd at this time, from no other motive but her known antipathy to me; she was one of your soft spoken, canting, whining hypocrites, who with a truly jesuitical art, could wrest evil out of the most inoffensive thought, word, look or action; when-

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H

ever

ever she had a mind to stab me to the quick in the opinion of my mother, she always prefac'd it with, I am sure I have a thorough regard for Miss Kitty, and a fine young lady she is—I pray God she may turn out a *wartuous* woman; but I confess, her conduct is not as her friends could wish; it wounds me to the soul, when I hear what people say of her, but I hope God will turn her heart; I believe she is still virtuous, tho' its impossible to judge of one who receives every fulsome blockhead that will but flatter her vanity.—

WHEN the young lads of the navy learnt that I was at home, they
came

came almost every night under my window with music, which I could by no means prevent, nor did I ever know to whom I was obliged for those civilities. But Mrs. Peggy took care to make the most of it; nay to declare before my face, that it was not safe to stay in the house, lest some of my fellows should break in, and cut their throats.

At this infernal insinuation I lost all patience, and as we sat at tea, (while she waited upon us) I indiscreetly threw the silver cream pot at her head, and cut her violently over the left eye; she clapp'd her hands directly on the wound, and said, very well, this is fine usage for a faith-

ful servant, my master shall hear of it, as God shall judge me : Upon this she left the room, and I retired to my own apartment, having left my gentle step-mother and her pious maid an ample field for persecution.

A MOST trifling, and yet a most fatal circumstance, concurr'd with the foregoing, to make me expect no quarter at my father's return : It seems that some sparks of the navy took it into their heads to paquet all the young ladies in Plymouth, and it would have been ill-manners to exempt me from so great a compliment.—A letter therefore was delivered by the post-man directed to me ; the postage was charg'd three shillings

shillings and six-pence ; and had it been three pounds my step-mother would readily have paid it, to know its contents ; it was only a rhapsody of nonsense and bombast, signed *Nicholas Codd* ; a name that so highly offended Mrs. Yeo's delicacy, that she desired no other proof of having lost all sense of honour and virtue ; yet how I could possibly be answerable for other people's impertinence I leave the candid reader to judge, after having endured with christian patience all the taunts, insults and threats of my step-mother upon this subject, I shut myself into my closet, and wrote the following stanzas, which I only transcribe as a proof of my philo-

fophy ;—tho' I had the absent B. in
view, my passion still soothing me
with the hopes of being his.

Reflection that makes mortals wise,
Gives me incessant pain,
From doubts that in my heart arise,
Of meeting thee again.

Absence, an ever foe to love,
The thought distracts my mind,
Lest you a fairer nymph approve,
And she like me prove kind.

Then to my humble cot retir'd
To search and wish for peace,
No more with mortal charms be fir'd,
Each earthly bliss shall cease.

Secluded far from human sight,
Attend my fleecy care,
But till my eyes are seal'd in night,
Thou shalt partake my pray'r.

My

My cottage on a rising ground
 Hard by a friendly shade,
 A ruin shall the prospect bound,
 And greens that never fade.

A murm'ring brook within my view
 That don't too lifeless flow,
 Whilst I the paths of truth pursue,
 Both time and chance shall know.

But if thou bring'st thy heart again
 Untainted and sincere,
 I'll laugh at all my present pain,
 And banish ev'ry care.

Then like the wretch by tempest tost,
 I'll hail the welcome shore,
 Forget the various dangers past,
 But venture out no more.

WHEN I considered the alarming
 consequence of my father's return,

H 4

with

with such extensive means to prepossess him against me in the hands of my implacable enemies,—I thought the most prudent step I could take, was to make my escape to some asylum, till a proper state of the case could be laid before him, either by my writing, or by the interposition of some impartial friend; I could think of no place so eligible for this end as the house of farmer R. my former guardian and deliverer; and therefore having made all the dispositions for a march, by collecting what little materials I could bundle into a large handkerchief, I set out early in the morning, and reached my journey's end before dinner-time.

THE

THE farmer's wife had been servant to my own mother from her infancy, and therefore had a kind of maternal tenderness, as well as a great respect for me ; so that I was most joyfully received by the whole family.

THERE was an apartment in this house entirely mantled with ivy, and as it commanded a most romantic and extensive prospect, I found it the most desirable place to me in the whole world, especially as there was in this little room a great number of books, to which I was so zealously devoted, that it was very difficult to persuade me down

even at meal times. When I was tired of reading, I took the pen and scribbled whatever nonsense came into my head. But the following little piece, written on seeing a school-boy walk on stilts, having met with some partial commendations, I give it just as it occur'd.

Leaving the grammar for his play,
 Forgetful of the rod,
 Tott'ring on stilts thro' mire all day,
 The school-boy strols abroad.

Why does this innocent delight
 Provoke the pedant's spleen?
 Fool, round the world exert your sight,
 And honour this machine.

The

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The tricking statesman, propt by
these,

His virtues loud can boast,
On gilded stilts can when he please,
O'erstride the murm'ring host.

Thro' fields of blood the hero stalks,
And fame sits on his hilt,
Till fortune throws within his walks
An honourable stilt.

When quite deserted by his muse,
The sinking sonneteer,
Hammers in vain what verse to chuse,
To please Belinda's ear.

Tho' mighty void of wit he stops,
With one successful chime,
His verse on stilts poetic props,
And leans upon his rhyme.

H 6

With

With well dissembl'd anguish see,
The canting rascal beg,
His artful limbs a better fee,
Than is his real leg.

Yet on the boys instructive play,
Is this contrivance built ;
The source that feeds the wretch all
day,
What is it — but a stilt ?

Corinna fair, of stature low,
Yet this defect supplies,
Her heels like stilts assist we know
The conquests of her eyes.

See in his second childhood faint,
Old Gripus walks in pain,
Crutches removing his restraint,
He acts the boy again.

So well concerted is this art;
 It suits with all conditions;
 The buck, the bard, the blood, the
 smart,
 Old men and politicians.

Thro' ev'ry scene of life that's past,
 Each artist struts unhurt,
 But death trips up the stilts at last,
 And leaves them in the dirt.

I AM now going to enter upon
 the particulars of an æra in my
 life, which may seem as unaccount-
 able to the reader, as it was unfor-
 tunate in its consequences to me,
 namely, my marriage with Mr. Jem-
 mat, whose name I have the mis-
 fortune to bear. Well has the poet
 observed,

“ Let

“ Let marriage be the last mad
thing you do.”

But alas, it was amongst the first of
those unsurmountable difficulties into
which I was precipitately plunged by
the perversity of my fate,

“ For if weak women go astray,
“ Their stars are more in fault than
“ they.”

AFTER I had continued some
weeks at the farmer's, and received
every demonstration of their un-
feigned affection towards me, I was
visited by a niece of Mr. S.'s with
whom I formerly lodged, and the
clergyman whom I mentioned; they
gave me an earnest invitation to
spend

spend the following Sunday with them, to which I had no other objection, but the fear of being too troublesome.—It seems my father was made acquainted with my route, and had written to Mr. S. by all means to prevail on me to return to his house, and to continue there till further orders ; promising at the same time, to pay all expences for my board, lodging, or whatever else I might require.

HAD I been appriz'd of this, my fatal connection with Mr. Jemmat could never have been effected : But when I went according to my appointment, and brought my old mother (as I call'd the farmer's wife)

wife) along with me, I found, if possible, a superior degree of politeness and civility, to what I had formerly experienc'd : After dinner and tea were over, they press'd me to stay to supper, and I cannot say I was averse to the proposal, as the company all seem'd to be in the genial humour ; and I believe there is nothing more certain than the following lines,

“ Men some to bus'ness, some to
 “ pleasure take,
 “ But ev'ry woman's in her soul
 “ a rake.”

The clergyman who was one of the company got into his prating vein ; as I before observ'd, he had a vast deal of pleasantry and humour,
 added

added to a pretty poetic turn, that afforded me many happy moments; in short I was prevail'd on to stay all night, and a man and horses were sent home with Mrs. R. as she was oblig'd to attend the market early in the morning, so consequently could not be persuaded to stay.

ABOUT this time I received from an unknown lover, by a post letter, the following song, directed to Miss Yeo in the country.

This strain young Colin oft rehears'd,
Amidst the laurel glade,
The nymph that shunn'd the god of
verse,

Yet gave the bard her shade.

Ye

Ye dying gales, full oft my sighs
Have plump'd your airy flight,
Tho' false as Kitty's heart and eyes,
Oh ! waft these strains aright.

Tell the exulting fair, no more
I'll wear her galling chains,
Free as the swallow's wing I'll soar,
And dare be man again.

No longer chide the slow-pae'd hour,
Each hour an age of woe;
No longer haunt the cyprus bow'r,
Or swell the river's flow.

No longer rob the raven's wing
To write th' ungrateful maid,
Nor call sweet echo from her spring,
And grow like her a shade.

For

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For tho' my soul in sighs expire,
My being melts in tears,
Averse she scorns my chaste desire,
And adamant appears.

At length the captive breaks his
chains,
Eludes the arms of death,
Enraptur'd liberty regains,
And heav'n in ev'ry breath.

Now with a heavy heart I proceed, and.

Since it will out, for out it must,
When thou shalt see me laid in dust,
Whisper not to the tell-tale reeds,
The foolishness of female deeds,
Nor let the treach'rous zephyrs bear
My weakness thro' the spicy air.

I HAVE

I HAVE previously told you, that I was now at the house of Mr. S. where I boarded and lodged before my step-mother sent for me, to put in practice the art of agreeably tormenting, of which she and Mrs. Peggy were certainly the most competent mistresses in Europe.

THO' Mr. S. never did acknowledge, that he had any orders from my father to subsist me, yet he made the kindest professions of regard imaginable; said he was very sorry any disagreement should have happened, and seemed greatly to condemn my step-mother, for the illicit steps she had taken to widen the breach between us;—he told
me

and I was welcome to continue with him the remainder of my life if I pleased, for which he desired no other gratuity than the felicity of conversing with me. As he had a niece just of an age to attract my esteem as a companion, I made myself tolerably easy, especially as we had the clergyman almost constantly with us.

YET notwithstanding, I thought it my duty to write a letter to my father, to remove as far as in me lay, any prejudices he might have causelessly conceived to my disadvantage; but as he had an underhand correspondence with Mr. S. who knew from his niece that was
my

my bed-fellow, every sentiment of my soul, he did not think proper to return me any answer ; which threw me into the deepest melancholy ; especially when I reflected that I was young, well born, and well educated ; had a father whose fortune was equal to giving me a proper support ;—a father whom I could not upbraid myself with having wilfully offended, in thought, word, or deed ;—a father, whom in fact I tenderly loved and dutifully respected, and yet was become a wretched dependent within four miles of his house ; — a dependent on a man who, tho' seemingly polite, was confessedly miserable by nature ; — it was too much to be patiently borne
by

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by a person who had some degree of spirit; I therefore ultimately resolved to marry the first person who should propose himself to me.

The End of the First Volume,

10 JU 68

